AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input/output (I/O) device being operative to:

receive a fragment of electronic data;

examine the fragment of electronic data; and

moderate one or more interrupts of an interrupt scheme on an associated computing platform processor if the fragment of electronic data comprises latency-sensitive data, the I/O device further being operative to moderate one or more interrupts of an associated computing platform processor.

2.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

3.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device comprises a network interface card (NIC).

4.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

5.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is ~~configured~~ operative to moderate by substantially immediately asserting said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor.

6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is ~~configured~~ operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor so that a predetermined number of interrupts per unit of time is not exceeded.

7.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is ~~configured~~ operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received by said I/O device.

8.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is ~~configured~~ operative to moderate by deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is received.

9.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said moderation of associated computing platform interrupt scheme is configurable through a user interface.

10.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~and~~ further comprising:

said I/O device further being operative to measure a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic data, and ~~further being operative~~ to moderate one or more interrupts of an associated computing platform after said particular period of time has elapsed.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method of moderating one or more interrupts of an

associated computing platform comprising:

receiving a fragment of electronic data;

examining the fragment of electronic data; and

~~if the fragment of electronic data comprises latency-sensitive data,~~ moderating said one or more interrupts <u>of an interrupt scheme on the associated computing platform if the fragment of electronic data comprises latency-sensitive data</u>.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises substantially immediately interrupting said associated computing platform processor.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts of said associated computing platform processor if a predetermined number of interrupts per unit time is met or exceeded.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating comprises deferring

said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is

received.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said moderating is configurable

through a user interface.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 11, and further comprising:

measuring a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic

data; and

performing said moderating after said particular period of time has elapsed.

20.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that when executed by a

computing platform, result in execution of a method of processing latency

sensitive electronic data comprising:

receiving a fragment of electronic data;

examining the fragment of electronic data; and

if the fragment of electronic data comprises latency-sensitive data, moderating

said one or more interrupts of an interrupt scheme on the computing

platform if the fragment of electronic data comprises latency-sensitive data.

21.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises an acknowledgement (ACK).

22.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 20, wherein said latency-sensitive data comprises one or more data packets that have a priority designation.

23.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises substantially immediately interrupting said associated computing platform processor.

24.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said interrupting of said associated computing platform processor.

25.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular number of fragments of electronic data of a particular type are received.

26.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating comprises deferring said one or more interrupts until a particular quantity of electronic data is received.

27.   (Original) The article of claim 20, wherein said moderating is configurable through a user interface.

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28.   (Original) The article of claim 20, and further comprising:

measuring a particular period of time after the receipt of a fragment of electronic

data; and

performing said moderating after said particular period of time has elapsed.

29.   (New) An apparatus comprising:

an input/output (I/O) device being operative to:

receive a fragment of electronic data;

examine one or more characteristics of the fragment of electronic data; and

moderate one or more interrupts of an interrupt scheme on a computing

platform, said moderation based, at least in part, on the one or more

characteristics of the fragment of electronic data.

30.   (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein one of the one or more characteristics

of the fragment of electronic data comprises packet type.

31.   (New) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said packet type comprises an ACK

(acknowledgement) packet.